



Curriculum Vitae Professor Dr. Iain W. Mattaj

Name: Iain William Mattaj
Born: 5 October 1952
Family Status: married



Academic and Professional Career

since 2005	Director General, European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL)
1999 - 2005	Scientific Director, European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL)
1990 - 2005	Programme Coordinator, Gene Expression Programme (EMBL)
1985 - 1990	Group Leader at EMBL
1982 - 1985	Postdoctoral Research at the Biocenter, University of Basel with Dr. Eddy De Robertis
1979 - 1982	Postdoctoral research at the Friedrich-Miescher-Institute, Basel, with Dr. Jean-Pierre Jost
1978 - 1979	Postdoctoral research at the University of Leeds, Dept. of Genetics, UK
1974 - 1978	Postgraduate studies at the University of Leeds, Dept. of Genetics, UK with Dr. John Wootton
1970 - 1974	Undergraduate studies at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland

Functions in Scientific Societies and Committees (Selection)

2010 - 2011	FET (Future and Emerging Technologies) Flagships Science Coordination Group, Brussels
since 2010	EMBO Scientific Publications Advisory Board
2009 - 2010	Chair of the European Intergovernmental Scientific Research Organisation forum (EIROforum)
since 2008	Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board of the DKFZ – ZMBH Alliance
since 2008	Chair of the Advisory Board for the Wellcome Trust Centre for Gene Regulation and Expression, Dundee, Scotland
2007 - 2010	Member of the Scientific Planning Committee, UK-Centre for Medical Research and Innovation
since 2007	Member, and from 2010 Chair, Scientific Advisory Board “Institut Curie”, France
2007 - 2010	President of the European Life Sciences Forum (ELSF)
since 2006	Member of the European Commission's Framework Programme 7 Advisory Group for Health Research
since 2006	Member of the Scientific Committee of the “Stiftung Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum Heidelberg”
since 2006	President of the Scientific Advisory Board of IGBMC, Illkirch, France
since 2006	CIMERA Scientific Advisory Board, Fundación Caubet-CIMERA, Illes Balears, Spain
since 2005	Member of the Scientific Council, Cancer Research UK London Research Institute
since 2005	Member of the Scientific Advisory Board, Gene Center, Ludwig Maximilians Universität, Munich, Germany
2003 - 2005	Cancer Research UK senior scientific promotions panel
since 2002	Biogem Ariano Irpinio, Naples, Italy
2001 - 2004	EMBO Young Investigator Programme Selection Committee
since 2001	Institute for Molecular Medicine, Lisbon, Portugal

since 2001	Centre for Genomic Regulation (CRG), Barcelona, Spain
2001 - 2010	Wellcome Trust Centre for Cell Biology, University of Edinburgh, UK
2000 - 2003	French Government “Genopole” Programme review committee
2000 - 2001	Managing Board of E-Biosci, the European electronic publishing initiative
since 2000	Wellcome Trust / MRC / University of Dundee, Institutes of Biochemistry and Cell Biology (Chair)
2000 - 2009	Max Planck Institute for Developmental Biology, Tübingen (Chair), Germany

Honours and Awarded Memberships (Selection)

2010	Honorary Doctorate, University of Edinburgh, UK
2010	Recipient of the Science and Society Award of the Italian Chemical Society
2006	Honorary Professor, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Germany
since 2006	Member of the Science Committee for the Louis-Jeantet Prize for Medicine
2006 - 2010	Member of the Life Sciences Search Committee for the Körber Prize
2005	Delivered the “Severo Ochoa Commemorative Lecture” marking th centenary of Ochoa’s birth in Madrid, Spain
2005	Elected member of the German Academy of Sciences Leopoldina
since 2003	Curator of the Lautenschläger Research Prize
since 2002	Trustee of the Darwin Trust, a charitable trust dedicated to supporting young scientists from developing countries
2001	Elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences
2001	Awarded Honorary Membership of the Japanese Biochemical Society on presentation of the “President’s Symposium Plenary Lecture”
2001	Awarded the Louis-Jeantet Prize for Medicine
2001	Awarded the Caledonian Research Foundation/RSE prize lectureship
2000	Elected “Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, FRSE”
1999	Elected “Fellow of the Royal Society, FRS”

1999	Elected member of Academia Europaea
1998 - 2001	President-Elect and President of the RNA Society
1990	Awarded the FEBS Anniversary Prize
1989	Elected member of EMBO

Major Scientific Interests

Prof. Mattaj's early work centered on a group of ribonucleoprotein particles, the U snRNPs, that function in the processing of messenger RNA precursors.

His analyses of these RNPs spanned a variety of topics including transcription of the RNA components, RNA-protein interactions, function of the RNPs in messenger RNA production and assembly of the RNPs from their component parts in vivo.

This work led to numerous studies of transport of RNA and proteins between the cell nucleus and cytoplasm. Prof. Mattaj's group identified numerous factors and mechanisms involved in this important process.

Prof. Mattaj's most recent work is focused on aspects of the regulation of processes that occur during cell division, including spindle formation and nuclear envelope breakdown and reassembly.